

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 191525Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0061

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MEETS WITH OPPOSITION

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS OF THE LEGALLY RECONIZED SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES (PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO, PRD; PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL CRISTIANO, PRSC; AND PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA, PQD) MARCH 15, TO DISCUSS DOMINICAN POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. NO STATEMENT WAS ISSUED, BUT ON FOLLOWING DAY REPRESENTATIVE OF ACCORD PARTIES HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO PRESENT RESULTS OF MEETING. HE STATED THAT AT OPPOSITION URGING BALAGUER HAD AGREED TO:

A. ALLOW DOMINICANS STUDYING IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO RETURN TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

B. "STUDY" REENTRY OF OTHER EXILES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PQD PRESIDENT EX-GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN (WHO HAS BEEN UNOFFICIALLY NAMED AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF SANTIAGO ACCORD). WESSIN, BALAGUER REPORTEDLY STATED, WOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY IF HE WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT.

C. INSTRUCT THE GODR TELEVISION CHANNEL TO PROVIDE TIME  
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FOR RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES.

D. ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO GODR AGENCIES TO STOP USING GOVERNMENT FUDNS FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL PURPOSES.

E. ORDER THE MILITARY AND POLICE TO STOP HARASSING THE OPPOSITION.

F. GRANT EXONERATIONS FOR CARS TO BE IMPORTED BY THE OPPOSITION FOR USE IN THE CAMPAIGN.

G. PRESENT THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD WITH PROPOSED OPPOSITION MODIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL LAW.

3. THE OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN CLASSIFIED THE MEETING WITH BALAGUER AS "FRANK, DIGNIFIED AND MAINTAINED ON THE HIGHEST PLANE." HE NOTED THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE.

4. COMMENT. BALAGUER, WHO SEEMS CERTAIN TO WIN THE MAY ELECTIONS, REPORTEDLY IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A LEGITMATE OPPOSITION RUNNING AGAINST HIM. BY MEETING WITH THE SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES, WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND AGREEING TO SOME OF THEIR DEMANDS, THE PRESIDENT HAS INCREASED THE POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION AND PROBABLY HAS LESSENNED THE POSSIBILITY OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE. DOUBTLESS THE SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES WILL HAVE FURTHER DEMANDS TO LEVY ON THE PRESIDENT AND IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL AGREE TO THE MORE ACCEPTABLE REQUESTS. HOPEFULLY, THIS CIVILIZED DEBATE WILL LEAD TO SOME FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY. IT IS, AT LEAST, A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES, COMMUNISTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT MEETS WITH OPPOSITION  
**TAGS:** PINT, DR, PRD, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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